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REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Field artillery and antitank artillery units are stationed near Simitli (N41-53, E23-07). 24 57mm. antitank guns and 16 105mm. guns (probably Krupp) were observed in a field south of the town.
2. Six T-34 tanks were observed on the right-hand side of the highway at the entrance to Gara Pirin (N41-44, E23-09) and four more in a field south of the town. Tank tracks leading from the highway onto a side road were observed approximately three kilometers further south. The railroad station at Gara Pirin is comparatively large and gives the impression of a recently developed communications center.
3. Barracks for the military garrison at Sandanski are located approximately 100 meters northeast of the Simitli-Sandanski road intersection. The garrison strength is estimated at a maximum of two battalions. All troops observed, wore the red epaulettes of riflemen.
4. The only soldiers observed at Petrich were frontier guards, and the highest - ranking officer seen was a Lt. Colonel (Podpolkovnik). Although an air force unit is stationed approximately 500 meters south of Marikostino¹, no airfield was seen in the vicinity.
5. The highway between Simitli and Gara Pirin has been widened in a number of places. South of Gara Pirin, the highway has a sand-covered gravel surface, on which an automobile can average 60 kilometers per hour. Between Petrich and Kulata (N41-23, E23-22) the highway is in good condition. New concrete bridges have been built along the entire length of the highway, where needed, which appears to have been kept in a state of good repair for a considerable period of time.

Comment: 1. This is probably Mari Kostenovo (W41-26, E23-21).

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INFORMATION RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT, 1997

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